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HINTS AND NOTIONS.

The ceiling. Take the natural ceiling, the sky, to begin with. What colors do we find there? Blue backgrounds, red clouds, yellow sun, with the neutrals white, gray, and gold, in clouds and sunshine. Then blue, red, and yellow, with white, gray, and gold, ought to be the right coloring for a ceiling, modified as to tint and tone, and hue, by the knowledge of the use which the room is to be put to. It is impossible to furnish a room harmoniously if the ceiling be white, or if curtains or hangings of any kind be white; for either black or white in any quantity in a room will make impossible any harmonic results. The prevailing color may be a tint of red, blue, or yellow, according to the taste of the person who is to occupy the room or the use of the room; but, this being decided, the rest of the room should be furnished to carry out the scheme of color, of which the ceiling strikes the key-note.

Humanity to horses. I wish to call the attention of teamsters and the public generally to the fact that it is very cruel to put a bit into a horse's mouth on a frosty morning, without taking the frost out of it. It is also injurious to a horse, and, if continued, will cause inflammation, and he will not eat well. In this way many horses suffer greatly from pure ignorance. If any one doubts this, just let him put his wet hand on an iron pump handle on a frosty morning, and he will be glad he is not a horse. To ascertain whether there is any frost in a bit, wet the finger (be sure not to use the tongue), and touch it to the bit; if it sticks the bit is full of frost. To take the frost out of a bit, simply dip it into cold water.--County Gentleman.

The wall. Between heaven and earth, the predominant colors in nature are seen in the green of trees, in the purple of distant atmospheric effects, and in the orange color of clouds at sunrise and sunset. These colors-green, purple, and orange—are called secondary colors; and, together with admixtures of the neutrals to produce tints and tones, should be used on walls, letting the secondary wall color harmonize with the primary ceiling color; thus, if the ceiling be a tint of blue, the wall should be a tone of orange; if the ceiling be pink or salmon color, a tint of red, the wall should be a neutral green; if the ceiling be yellow or cream color, the wall should be purple in tone.

Tambourines. These are much used now for holding the letters on a writing table, which are just ready to be posted. They are simply tied with colored ribbons and painted. They are also used for work-baskets, padded and lined, and fitted with pockets and filled with toys, having nothing at the top they make a most acceptable gift for a child. Well painted they are frequently suspended on the wall by means of a long ribbon.

Milk pails. These are mostly of one size, viz., about a yard round. The best plan is to cover them with a coat of common paint-red, claret, green, or blue-and on this to paint flowers in oils. They are covered outside with chintz and with satin. Inside they should always have quilted satin linings, or a plain satin lining with a couple of bows of ribbon at the side. Draperies of material can be arranged round them with a pretty effect.

Warming a room by sunshine. Professor E. S. Morse has recently described his device for utilizing the sun's rays for warming a room. It consists of a slaty surface, painted black, placed on the outside wall of the building, with flues to conduct the warm air to the inside.

To perfume note paper, wet blotting paper with perfume, dry it by placing a weight apon it, then lay it betwe writing paper and top it with a heavy weight. Very soon the paper will absorb the aroma.

Storks made of wool, and with wings widespread, are suspended by invisible wires in a recess or bay window, and, if handled artistically, are very effective.

The American Queen says: The latest Parisian table decoration is to place flat baskets of roses near each plate, with the menu tied to the handle.

A handsome toilet set is of pale blue plush with painted border of apple blossoms and a fringe of antique lace.

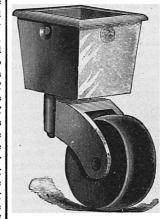
Satin panels for the walls with a velvet bird of rich plumage appliquéd, are very handsome.

Octagonal occasional-tables are popular.

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HINTS AND NOTIONS.

As advertisers are better satisfied that correspondents are attracted by a certain advertisement, when that advertisement is mentioned, we would esteem it a favor if those of our readers who write any of our advertisers would kindly name this paper as the source of their information—if it is.

Mantel borders. A dark green velvet mantel border, painted in lustra painting which is so easily done, is pretty. A piece of dark green serge with a strip of Orientallooking cretonne about two inches from the edge, the pattern touched up a little in silk, and the whole bordered with worsted fringe, looks well; so does an appliqué of dark red cretonne on sage green sheeting, the pattern simply buttonholed round. It is becoming a very usual plan to have the chimney border to match the chintz of the room.

Some elaborate decorations for rich hangings are shown in floral designs in plush applique. A portiere of olive plush has a broad band of a lighter shade with large passion flowers and palm leaves in the natural colors. A cover for a small square table is of peacock blue plush, each side being cut into a deep scallop which is ornamented with pink roses of plush, stuffed, so as to stand out well from the background.

An improved water heater is made. It is intended to be principally an oil burner, and around the water chamber are suitable flues to facilitate obtaining the utmost heat. The whole apparatus is constructed of sheet metal, with right joints, and is intended to furnish a portable heater which can be readily used for heating water out of doors or wherever wanted.

Fans. A gilded palm-leaf with a spray of natural flowers, and the handle covered and tied with white satin ribbon, is a pretty young lady's fan. A novelty is a fan of molded plush, covered papier maché, and made to represent begonia, chestnut, waterlily, and geranium leaves, and these look very well as decorative patterns.

A very beautiful and extremely delicate design for a royal blue plush table scarf is the clematis flower; a very realistic effect is produced by forming the flowers with arrasene, cutting each end and fastening it in the centre by small yellow stiches in yellow filoselle, or, if you prefer a tiny gold bead, the latter is quite effective.

The Artist, our sprightly Boston exchange, has discontinued its "Bohemian" department, which made quite a flutter among the local artists. It is unfortunate that this was necessary, for the department was well written up and had the merit of spice, which is lacking in every special journal.

Crystal soap is said to be very good for cleaning brass. Dampen a cloth, rub on the soap until a white paste is formed (not a lather), then clean the article, rub dry and polish. When the cloth looks black, wash out, squeeze nearly dry, and put on more soap.

An inside wooden shutter is made, which is raised or lowered by cords. It is a simple and cheap arrangement whereby slats may be placed and kept in any desired position, or the angle of the slats be changed at pleasure.

Coffee beans placed upon a hot plate or over hot coals throw off an aroma which is healthful and agreeable.

A very striking and picturesque floral decoration is a large panel made of red and yellow tulips, bordered with ivy leaves.

Furniture colored blue and silver is a novelty.

A new coloring matter which gives a new and beautiful yellow, has just been discovered.

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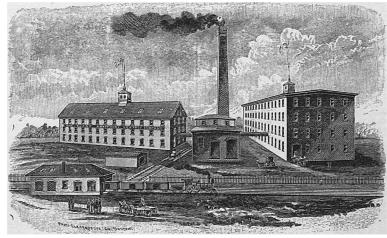
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It is especially adapted for UPHOLSTERING FURNITURE, for LAMBREQUINS,
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SATIN WOOD AND LIGNUM VITAE,

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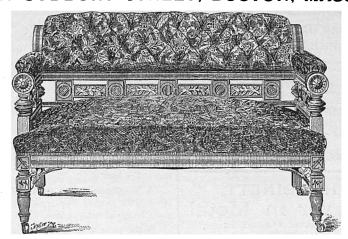
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HINTS AND NOTIONS.

To coat cast iron a glossy black. To coat cast iron a glossy black color that will stand washing and heat, take oil of turpentine and add to it strong sulphuric acid, drop by drop, while stirring, until a syrupy precipitate is formed and no more of it is produced on further addition of a drop of acid. The liquid is now repeatedly washed away with water, every time renewed after a good stirring, until the water does not exhibit any more acid reaction with blue litmus paper. The precipitate is next brought upon a cloth filter, and after all the water has run off, the syrup is fit for use. This thickish deposit is painted over the iron with a brush; if it happens to be too stiff, it is previously diluted with some oil of turpentine. Immediately after the iron has been painted, the paint is burnt in by a gentle heat, and after cooling, the black surface is rubbed over with a piece of linen stuff dipped in and moistened with linseed oil.

Here is a lament from Professor F. W. Newman, and we should imagine it is as strong as Mr. Morris could well desire: "Artists have, in many ways, made our homes less convenient, even less safe, by their untimely pressure for beauty before utility. Their outcry is that of the horseleech-give! give! Look at the House of Parliament for thousands squandered over misplaced beauty. Utility must go first, and beauty be built upon it, if anything worthy and permanent is to be produced. Christmas cards are every year becoming more elaborate. Women's dresses equally. When the sewing machine was first invented, I uttered a melancholy fear that its chief result would be to make female garb more elaborate. The principle must be resisted. Artists need a curb put on them, as do the medical faculty, by public common sense." —British Architect.

The question seems now to be, who will furnish the common sense?

Wall decorations. In a letter to the London journals, Lord Waveney bears strong tribute to the beauty and suitability of Irish poplin for wall decoration, for which it is now being used by the Queen and in the best English houses. He also proves that it is economical, which is the most important item in the question. In 1844 he had the drawingroom of his London house hung with Irish tabaret yellow with white stripes. "The color and brilliancy," he says, "remains undiminished in intensity after near forty years' wear in London. A ruby tarabet has lasted equally

Places at tables for guests at dinners may be designated in this way: have an alphabet made of tin, have each letter about three inches high and the little tin forms deep enough to hold a little sand or wet moss. Then fill the forms with tiny flowers and

A music holder has been patented. It consists in a combination with opening and closing music holders made to shut and keep closed by a spring applied to a clamp. Great facility is claimed for putting in and taking the music out, and also for keeping it open

To clean gilt frames rub with small quantity of sal volatile mixed with cold water, or after well dusting, paint the gilding with a camels hair brush dipped in the following mixture: one gill of water in which one ounce of common salt, one ounce of alum, and two ounces of purified nitre have been dissolved.

The plain effects of a bedroom mantel v be improved by hanging in the centre : round or square bevelled mirror, with a frame of oak or plush, and on each side, a trifle above, place small shelves for vases, bric-abrac, etc.

Scraps of cloth. A tailor has made a very effective stair carpet of patterns neatly sewn together, as in patchwork, and edged with scarlet two inches wide. He has taken care to have the patterns all the same size, and they look like thick striped material.

Opalescent glass with gold or silver lining makes a beautiful wall or ceiling decoration. For tiles around a fire place it is extremely effective.

A crescent-shaped basket made to hang from the ceiling or a bracket is very pretty to hold flowers or grasses.

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Slass Staining,

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This Chair is designed in obedi-ence to hygienic law. The rear portion of the seat rests on springs so arranged that it per-mits the back of the chair to re-ceive a large portion of the weight of the body; it expands the lungs, gives free play to the respiratory organs. It is constructed of the best material, in a most thorough manner. manner.
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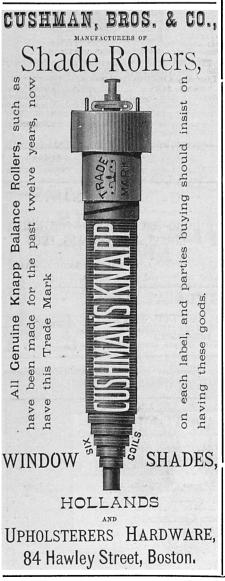
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HINTS AND NOTIONS.

Bay window decoration. A novel decoration is a wheelbarrow, ordinary gardener's size. Fill it with flower pots containing flowers, hiding the pots with green moss. Round the edges inside fix a wooden trough, and in this and all along plant hanging creepers and lycopodium, also some ivy, and let this latter fall over the wheel. After the flowers are arranged, gild the barrow on the outside. It is best to get the dry gilding powder, two packages of bronze, and four of the yellow gilt packages, with a liquid that comes for mixing with it. Use a flat camel's hair brush an inch wide. When the gilt is thoroughly dry, varnish the surface with white varnish, and it will retain its brightness. Stand on a bright red rug or mat.

A new mantel cover of golden brown silk serge has a scarf covering the shelf and hanging over each end half way to the floor. These ends are embroidered with Japanese roses in shaded yellows. Across the fronts of the mantel is a straight lambrequin gathered up very short at each corner of the shelf and fastened to the scarf with a large bow of wide gold-colored ribbon. Across the centre of this lambrequin is a spray of the yellow roses. A wall banner of myrtle-green serge is ornamented with branches of lilacs in crewel and ribbon work, the fine close blossoms being effectively simulated. The most serviceable bureau scarfs are of linen canvas, the ends finished with elaborate drawn work and knotted friuge.—Carpet Trade and Review.

The discovery that castor oil plants possess the faculty of killing and keeping away flies, mosquitoes, and other insects, was recently made by a French scientist named Rafford, who noticed that certain rooms in his house, in which castor oil plants were growing, were entirely free from these disagreeable insects, although other apartments were infested with them. He found lying near the plants great quantities of dead flies, and a large number of dead bodies were hanging to the under surface of the leaves, which caused him to investigate the matter, and the discovery was made that the plants gave out an essential oil, or some toxic principle which possessed very powerful insecticide qualities.

Enamelling. A patent has been taken out in Germany for a new process of enamelling ceramic articles. The glass, terra-cotta, stoneware, porcelain, or similar article, is covered with a film capable of conducting electricity, by painting the article with a solution of chloride of platinum or nitrate of silver and burning this in, and then decorating as desired with enamel. This is burned in, and the article is afterwards covered electrolytically with the metal. The galvanic coating does not adhere to the enamel, and very varied effects can be produced by gilding, silvering, coloring, polishing, platinising, etc., the metallic surfaces of the articles.

The floor. Beneath our feet in nature we shall find the tertiary colors, the russet and citrine of the earth stains, and the olive of grass shadows, relieved by small bright spots of the primary colors, red, blue, and yellow, in flowers. So, according to this natural system, the color of floors, whether of wood, tiling, or carpeting, ought to be subdued and sombre, with small and infrequent bits of bright colors to relieve the dullness of the general effect, and produce the appearance of bloom, as in a field of flowers.

Castor oil, five parts, thinned with refined petroleum one part, is a good lubricating oil for bicycles, or any other fine machinery. Good sweet cold-pressed lard oil mixed with petroleum in the same proportion as above is also excellent.

A combined burglar alarm and telephone system has been patented. This invention renders possible the application of telephone wires to burglar connections, so as to effect great saving of wires and obstruction to streets in cities.

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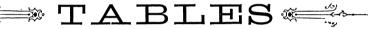
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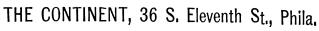
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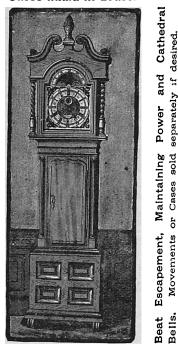
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HINTS AND NOTIONS.

A successful piece of faience work has been constructed in the grill room of the First Avenue Hotel, London. In this faience grill the basis of color is rich brown, verging on amethyst, the panels being treated with background of rich yellow, passing into brown, combined with blue gray and a peculiar tone of bronze. The tone is perhaps open to the objection that it is too cold, but that it is a satisfactory and well considered piece of decoration there can be no doubt.

At the Beauvais competition for designs of a tapestry suitable for a couch, which took place at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris, on the 18th of November, the prize of \$400 was awarded to M. Couty, a master at the Ecole des Arts Décoratifs, Nice. The tapestry will be executed at the government tapestry works at Beauvais.

An improved chair has been patented. It provides for a seat with rockers on the bottom, and downwardly projecting lugs therefrom, the lugs passing through pockets and being surrounded by springs contained in the pockets, thus giving a very easy and comfortable motion.

In England thin shavings of veneers of different kinds of wood are coming into use for book covers. The woods now mostly in use are our American black walnut, lime, oak, holly, etc., but all woods may be used. After being placed upon the wood the veneers can be either rubbed down with oil or French polished.

A library devoted exclusively to technical arts has been opened in the rue Titon in Paris. It is founded and endowed with funds left for the purpose by a Mr. Forney; £6,800 have already been spent on books, maps, drawings, and copies.

An improved wagon seat has been patented. The invention is a novel construction of adjustable seats for spring wagons. The seat is fastened by clamps and thumb screws to the wagon body, and the construction is light and strong.

Natural flowers may be preserved by taking them when fresh cut and dipping them in paraffine melted enough to maintain its fluidity; move the flowers about very carefully in the liquid so as to remove all air bubbles; withdraw quickly and hold a moment to dry.

The direction of the "Beaux-Arts" has held a competition for a painted ceiling in the hall of the Musée Astronomique. The subject being the transit of Venus across the sun. Three sketches were sent in and that of M. Dupain was selected.

Mantels are now draped with scarfs suspended from a brass rod about the edge of the shelf.

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HINTS AND NOTIONS. ··--*-

As advertisers are better satisfied that correspondents are attracted by a certain advertisement, when that advertisement is mentioned, we would esteem it a favor if those of our readers who write any of our advertisers would kindly name this paper as the source of their information-if it is.

A correspondent of the London Furniture Gazette writes his paper on polishing and preserving parquet floors: "Having had a long and varied experience in connection with this subject, perhaps my method will prove an interesting mite towards solving the difficulty. One very great and important point is often overlooked, i. e., that bad or indifferent ventilation injuriously affects the work. Another cause of deterioration is dry rot or the accumulation of damp air or gases under the floors. I have observed in some instances that floors that had been polished some months have had a half-dried and tacky appearance, and I have found that one of the three evils just mentioned has been the cause. That oil darkens wood is certainly true to a certain extent; but if linseed oil that has been previously clarified and rendered transparent is applied to a wood surface the darkening takes place just the same, which leads me to infer that oil does not darken to the extent generally believed, but that it is the deposition of dirt in minute particles that penetrate under and into the surface of the polish or varnish, that bring about the darkening, and for this reason—I have found floors that have been polished by me to be but very slightly changed in color after four to five years. To meet the many difficulties that are encountered in the process -I proceed as follows: Procure a saucepan, into which put some cold water, having a smaller vessel that will hold a pint of linseed oil, which should then simmer for half an hour; to prevent the oil boiling I take three pieces of stone or something similar, and upon these I place the vessel containing the oil, since I have found that the oil is thus rendered in better condition than when boiled. I next add a piece of white wax; when well digested I add three parts of a pint of spirit of turpentine. using a little of the spirit to grind some litharge for the purpose of expediting the drying of the oil. I find half an ounce of litharge is sufficient for one pint of the above liquids. The manner of application is simple, merely requiring a little pressure to rub the compound into the wood."

The growing fashion of introducing squares and panels of bevelled mirror glass into cabinets, mantel backs, and other pieces of drawing-room furniture, is dangerous unless kept in subjection to good sense and taste. The scattered reflections from these bits of glass are often confusing and unpleasant. Squares and jewels of stained glass can be employed with far better effect. Mirrors may be used without restriction in bedrooms and dressing-rooms where they have a purpose and fitness. The long swinging glasses are coming into favor again, and bureaus, dressing-tables, and walls are more amply supplied with mirrors than they have been of late years.

It is a curious fact that old wasp nests sometimes take fire, as is supposed, by the chemical action of the wax upon the material of which the nest is composed. Many of the fires of unknown origin in haystacks and farm buildings may thus be accounted for. Old lumber piles have been known to take fire unaccountably, possibly from a similar cause.

A "grandfather's chair" made of flowers after the original belonging to a family where the grandfather lately died, was worked out by et-side florist Carnations mahogany, and a pattern of violets and callas was the cushion for the seat.

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References: The Decorator and Furnisher, Art Amateur, Art Interchange, and all Art Journals of New York. State where you found this Advertisement.

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BEING from one-quarter to one-half larger than any of its contemporaries, it is able to give a great deal of space to departments of value to reading, thinking, intelligent people, among which are the following: Editorial, Biblical Research, Missions, Religious Intelligence, the Sunday-school, Music, Hymn Notes, Education, Science, Sanitary, Fine Arts, Ministerial Register, Personalities, Farm and Garden, Financial and Commercial. Thirty-two pages in all every week.

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DURING the next few months we shall publish stories by a number of the most talented writers, among them the following: W. E. Norris, author of "Matrimony," "No New Thing," etc.; F. Marion Crawford, author of "Mr. Isaacs," "Dr. Claudius," etc.; W. D. Howells, author of "Our. Wedding Journey," etc.: J. S. of Dale, author of "Guernedale;" Edward Everett Hale, author of "Ton Times one is Ten," etc.; Juli Schayer, author of "Tiger Lily and Other Stories;" Rebocca Harding Davis, Sarah Orne Jewett, etc., etc.

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HINTS AND NOTIONS.

To clean brass and copper. Somebody says large articles of brass and copper which have become very much soiled may be cleaned by a mixture of rotten stone (or any sharp polishing powder) with a strong solution of oxalic acid. After being thoroughly cleaned, the metal should be wiped off with a cloth moistened with soda or potash, and a very light coating of oil should be applied to prevent the further corroding action of the acid. A more powerful cleaning agent, because very corrosive, is finely powdered bichromate of potash mixed with twice its bulk of strong sulphuric acid, diluted (after standing an hour or so) with an equal bulk of water. This will instantly clean the dirtiest brass, but great care must be taken in handling the liquid, as it is very corrosive. Brass which has been lacquered should never be cleaned with polishing powders or corrosive chemicals. Wiping with a soft cloth is sufficient, and in some cases washing with weak soap and water may be admissible. Dry the articles thoroughly, taking care not to scratch them, and if after this they show much sign of wear or corrosion, send them to the lacquerer to be refinished.

The Venus of Milo, the gem in the Louvre sculpture collection, has again-been separated into three fragments, and with all due care placed in a storing room. The gallery in which it used to stand had no vaults underneath, damp was damaging the plaster used in the restoration of most statues, and even marble was affected. Sheets of lead placed under the plinths had proved of no avail, a proper basement is therefore to be built, and heating stoves fixed. Meanwhile a plaster cast of the Venus has been erected in a gallery close by. The excavations have brought to light an oratory dating probably from times anterior to Francis I. Here is an opportunity for some Parisian dealer in bric-brac to start a libel suit and advertise his business.

An apparatus for extinguishing fires has been patented. The invention relates to a new method and apparatus whereby air is deprived of its oxygen and vitiated with carbonic acid and other products of combustion, by passing through or over a fire, then forcing or drawing this air deprived of power of supporting combustion through the burning structure.

An improved lamp has been patented. It is especially designed to attach to sewing machines, pantry shelves, kitchen tables, etc., so as not to be knocked down or thrown off its supporting surface, and has a novel construction of attached bracket or clamp with a spring hold, which may also be used as a handle for carrying the lamp.

A writer in a scientific monthly asks: "What is a meter?" In reply a jocular editor said: "An opinion has long prevailed that a meter is a contrivance that works twenty-seven hours a day eight days a week the year round; and when you resolve to economize in the use of gas it throws in a couple of extra hours daily without charge."

An improved metallic plastering surface has been patented. The wire cloth used has corrugations or ribs, to increase its stiffness and firmness, and so that it may be fixed to the joists and studding by means of common staples, the ribs being placed transversely to the joists and studding.

A refrigerator has been patented in which the valves, vents, or other openings leading to the cold air chambers from the ice may be opened and closed from the outside of the refrigerator, so the warm air may be excluded from the main part when the door or window of one of the chambers is opened.

A fire escape has been patented. It is the design of this invention to use the force of gunpowder or similar explosive for elevating ladders to the roof or windows of buildings in case of fire, by a specially devised mortar working in a swivel on a light carriage, and a peculiar construction of chain ladder.

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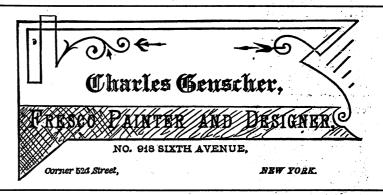


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HINTS AND NOTIONS.

A new art of photo-engraving metallic plates, to be used for printing and ornamental purposes, which is called galvano-engraving, is announced. To make an engraving, suitable metallic plates are prepared, which have the smoothness and polish of glass, and a photographic negative on a glass plate of the subject to be engraved having been obtained, the operator covers one of the polished plates with a bichromated gelatine film, places the photographic negative upon it and exposes it to the light. The action of the latter renders the gelatine insoluble, so that when the negative is removed, and the gelatine plate washed, all the gelatine on the surface of the plate is removed except the duplicate of the lines of the photograph, which remain in relief. The proof is placed for some hours in a damp place, where the lines are brought up in relief, and after the proof has been coated with plumbago, it is applied to a metal alloy placed in a special vessel having a bottom formed of a smooth, strong metallic plate. Into this vessel the liquid metal is poured, the gelatine proof immediately applied on the metal, and the whole being covered by a second smooth metallic plate, which closes the vessel, momentary pressure is applied, and a hollow metallic plate ready for printing is formed. The fusible alloy employed consists of bismuth, tin, lead, and mercury, in proportion according to the degree of hardness desired.

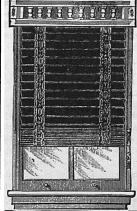
Kandyan pottery. The Art Work Association at Kandy, in Ceylon, has raised a voluntary loan in order to secure the proper representation of Kandyan art at Calcutta, and the following brief sketch from the Ceylon papers of the articles which have been already sent with this object may not be without interest: The principal objects are those in the pottery known as "Embekke ware." Besides these there will be two series of large tiles of considerable curiosity. One consists of twenty scenes from the great annual perahera, as it is carried on at the present day. The second series represents a story of very great antiquity, preserved in the Pali language, known as the "Dharma Sonda Vatthu," or the tale of "The King who was intoxicated with the law." It consists of eleven pictures in all, and depicts, by means of an allegory, the severe struggle between early Buddhism and triumphant Brahminism. A third series of smaller tiles represents what are known as the "Nawa Nari Kunjari" designs, in which the figures of from four to nine men or women are ingeniously worked into the shape of a horse, an elephant, a flower vase, etc. There will be a selection of brass work, Kandyan swords and knives, Dumbara mats, lacquer work, and ivory carving.

A new house in Belchertown, Mass., is thus referred to by Messrs. Whitney and Adams of Springfield: "The main hall, extending from the front to the rear balcony, is forty feet by twelve, and is finished in such a way as to make it an especially attractive apartment. The substantial ceiling beams cased in cherry and separated by sheathing of the same material in deep panels, the broad cherry staircase on the right, with bannisters of Moorish work, and the two open fire-places with carved cherry mantels on the left, make up a very pleasing combination. In the upper hall the cherry ceiling is strikingly arched over the stairway and there is a large skylight of stained glass. The floor is of oak and has an inlaid border made up of mahogany, holly, maple and cherry. The windows over the front door have the new style of jewelled glass, and on the sides of the main entrance are the figures "Spring" and "Fall" in stained glass, the large figure of "Summer" appearing in the rear of the hall."

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HINTS AND NOTIONS.

Coloring walls. The best preparation for distemper is, says an authority on house painting, a thin flat coat of paint. "The wall should at first be sized with a mixture made of soap, alum, and a little glue, tinting the size or paint to color, if dark colors are to be used or the wall is rough, as church walls are. The distemper itself should never be put on in more than one coat, as it tends to peel if thick. The glue should be covered with water, allowed to stand over night, the non-absorbed water poured off, and the glue melted. The color, made up with pigment and fine whiting or Paris white (or zinc white for very fine work) to a paste, is now mixed with the glue, and applied cool." An absorbent wall requires, of course, a larger quantity of water. If oil be used the wall should be primed or sized. The first coat ought to be of white lead mixed with plenty of oil, a little japan, and some turpentine. The fourth or last coat should be made flat, well thinned with turpentine, but possess the full color intended. It is stated that the surface thus produced will bear cleaning with a damp cloth, although it contains little exposed oil. A wall with a smooth white sand finish, dry and hard, is necessary for coloring, and damp spots should be treated with shellac. For church walls, a rough floated surface is best for distemper. Stippling the wall surface is a method sometimes used for fine work, and is done by treating the walls with the butt of the bristles. A solid effect is obtained by the process if a full coat of color is given first. For wall colors, grays, greenish grays, or deep reds are suitable. Mr. W. Morris, in a list of wall colors, recommends a solid red, not very deep, but rather describable as a full, and toned with yellow and blue; a light orange pink to be used sparingly; a pale golden tint (yellowish brown) a very difficult color to hit; a pale copper color between these two; tints of green, from pure and pale to deepish and gray, always remembering that the purer the paler and the deeper the grayer. These are all tried and artistic colors. Perhaps a terra cotta red or pink is one of the most useful colors for halls and the dados of dining-rooms and staircases, where there is plenty of light. Tints of gray, from blueish to greenish tones, are suitable, and a salmon color is effective in a room full of cold light .- The Plumber and Decorator.

A New System of Heating for Hothouses. Hot-houses are being widely introduced into Italy. In these generally the air is heated, which again warms the earth. A Turin inventor, M. Ciria, has reversed the procedure, and has run hot water through the earth which he wishes to warm. The hot baths of Acqui are supplied by a hot spring. After the various purposes of the establishment have been served by it, this water still retains a serviceable amount of heat. M. Cirio has made at the side of the baths a garden inclosing 500 square mètres, and by means of earthen ware pipes has made the water leaving the baths to circulate under the ground in all directions. He has planted 10,000 asparagus roots, 4,000 chicory, and 4,000 plants of Roman lettuce, besides strawberries. In passing it may be said that the Japanese have adopted similar methods; the waters of hot springs about Tokio are about to be experimented with in a similar way, and the volcanic heat of certain districts in Japan is also to be utilised, by conducting the heated air from subterranean wells and bringing it to the surface .-London Furniture Gazette.

Many persons are not aware that glass can be cut under water with great ease to almost any shape by simply using a pair of In order to insure success the points must be kept quite level in the water while the scissors are applied; and, secondly, to avoid risk, it is better to begin cutting by taking off small pieces at the corners and along the edges and so reduce the shape gradually to that required. When the operation goes on well the glass breaks away from the scissors in small pieces in a straight line with the blades. The two hints given above, if strictly followed, will always insure success.

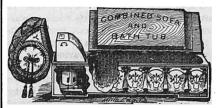
Pencil drawings may be preserved by pouring over them, when stretched upon the drawing-board, a thin solution of gum arabic or the white of an egg dissolved in dilute ammonia water by agitation with broken glass.

Drilling glass. Holes may be drilled in glass, says the Pharmacist, by a good steel drill wetted with a saturated solution of camphor in oil of turpentine,

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HINTS AND NOTIONS.

Paper floor covering. A new kind of matting or carpet for covering floors is composed of a fabric woven or knit from strands or threads of paper in such a manner that when laid upon a floor it will serve all the purposes of ordinary straw matting or textile carpets, and can be cleansed by washing when necessary or desirable. Any kind of strong paper is taken and cut or formed into strips of the required or suitable size, and then twisted or spun into strands or threads. If a fine texture is required, the strips are made smaller than where a coarse texture is preferred; but in either event the twisted or spun strand or threads are woven or knit into a fabric by any of the well-known methods practiced in weaving or knitting textile material. Before or after the paper strands or threads are woven or knit into the matting or carpet, the paper may be rendered water-proof by saturation or impregnation with any known water-proofing material; or it may be otherwise chemically treated in order to strengthen it and permit the use of water or other cleansing fluid in washing the floor covering when desired to free it from dirt or stains, and it may also be treated with carbolic acids or other material to prevent the ravages of insects. If the strips of paper are properly and tightly twisted or spun into strands or threads and closely woven or knit the fabric can be subjected to a moderate amount of washing without liability to injury. The strips of paper may be formed very narrow and spun or twisted with strands of yarn; or the twisted paper strands may be woven or knit with some suitable animal or vegetable matter, the strips of twisted paper forming the warp or the woof, and the animal or vegetable matter forming the warp or woof as desired. Paper strands or threads produced from different colored papers produce a variety of designs in the fabric during the process of weaving or knitting, as well as the various designs that are produced in ordinary tapestry, and the fabric can be woven or knit into any determined dimensions to be fitted to the floor of an apartment, so that the floor covering will be in a single piece. Paper produced from what is known as the "palmetto leaf," is preferred for this use, as it is strong and durable; but it is obvious that paper produced from other substances can be used.

An admirable material for interior decoration, to be used instead of marble, has been introduced. The base of this product is slate, which, after being suitably cut and trimmed, is scoured with pumice stone, then rubbed with powdered pumice stone, and polished with felt. The slabs, having been painted with the desired groundwork color, now undergo a dipping process. A vat, containing water mixed with ox gall, and on which the colors are floated, is provided; a brush is dipped in the color and sprinkled on the surface, then the water is fanned with a palm leaf, and the brush drawn through several times. The mixed paint spreads on the surface of the water like veining in marble, and the slab is then lowered until it touches the surface, when the floating color adheres to t. Drying, baking, and polishings finish the work.

To remove rust. A mixture of paraffin oil and emery powder rubbed on with a piece of tweed cloth makes steel as bright as a button. But, as "prevention is better than cure," we may add that to prevent formation of rust the bright steel should be painted with wax varnish, made by dissolving one part of solid paraffin in fifteen parts of benzole. This is a much more cleanly application than such fatty compounds as blue ointment, and is eminently suitable for steel grates, fire irons,

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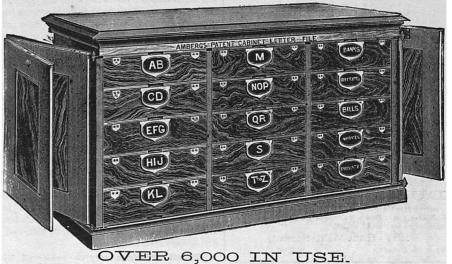
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HINTS AND NOTIONS.

A narrow shelf on simple brackets placed over a doorway, and painted like the woodwork of the room, is a pleasing and artistic addition, and can be easily put up by any carpenter. A few pieces of pottery, good in color and shape, though not necessarily rare or costly, may be grouped upon this shelf, forming a very effective decoration. In these days, when many of the better qualities of sauces and potted meats are put up in jars and jugs of really artistic form and color, it is not necessary to resort to old pie plates gilded and painted, or plaster figures colored to imitate brass and bronze. Some jugs of excellent shapes are found in a durable English ware in mottled olive or dark bright blue with a raised decoration, at very moderate cost. A plaque of beaten brass which anyone can make with a little skill and practice, an olive jug, a slender vase of brilliant yellow Japanese crackle, and a clouded blue-gray jar which can be found at the grocer's, and which, after it is emptied of its contents in the kitchen, is worthy of being promoted to the position of artistic bric-a-brac, will make an effective combination of color and shape, which will be a continual pleasure.

Toughened glass. Great strides in popular favor have just recently been made by what is known as "toughened glass," which is employed in the manufacture of an endless number of goods usually looked upon and classed as fragile. Those who have not made an experiment with this glass should certainly do so, as its employment very quickly effects an appreciable saving in the matter of loss by breakage. Glass tumblers, as a rule, are short-lived, and the chimneys used with Argand gas burners, and often exposed to violent currents of cold air, are but rarely distinguished for length of service. For such articles, and a host of other less humble but not less fragile goods, "toughened glass" is admirably adapted.

To remove spots from varnished articles. It depends entirely upon the nature of the substance which caused the stain. In absence of any specific knowledge on this point, we quote a method recommended in a German polytechnic journal: Make a mixture of equal parts of linseed oil, alcohol, and turpentine, slightly moisten a rag with it, and rub the spots until they disappear. Then polish the spots with ordinary blotting-paper. Varnish injured by heat can hardly be restored in any other way than by removing it altogether and applying a fresh coat.

A very pretty shade for a chandelier globe is made of a band of bright satin ribbon two inches wide, gathered slightly at the upper edge to fit just above the largest part of the globe. The lower edge is bordered with antique lace about three inches in width, finished with a fringe of embroidery silk of the color of the ribbon, knotted into its pointed or scalloped edge. A chandelier of three globes has shades repeating the colors of the furniture, one with ribbon and fringe of crimson, another of yellow, and the third of dull blue.

Trailing plants give a cheerful appearance to a room, particularly when cultivated to climb over picture frames, pedestals, statuary, etc. The prettily decorated china vases with flat backs can be hung over or beneath a picture frame and into this put the plant; the balloon vine is a beautiful climbing plant and the Madeira vine thrives splendidly, creeping wherever trained, and forms a thick lattice work if allowed to run over windows.

To destroy the odor of paint. To the ecipes aiready given in added the following: Slice a few onions and put them in a pail of water in the centre of the room, to remain there for several hours; or plunge a handful of bay into a pailful of water and let it stand in the room over night.

An attractive design for a pale stone gray felt table cover, is an embroidered border wrought of scarlet pinks intermingled with the delicate green leaves of trailing smilax for

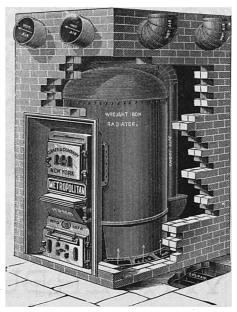
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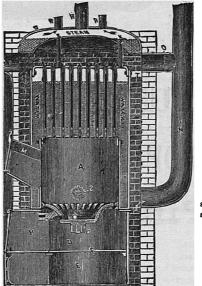
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